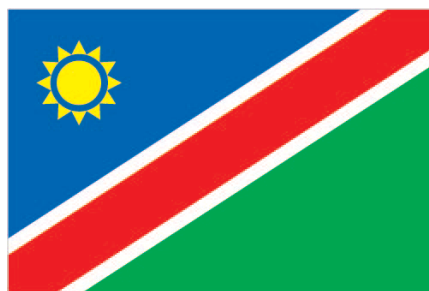




# NAMIBIA



## INTRODUCTION

South Africa occupied the colony, then known as German South West Africa, in 1915 during World War I and administered it as a mandate until after World War II. In 1966, the Marxist South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) guerrilla group launched a war of independence for the area that became Namibia. Namibia gained independence in 1990 and has been governed by SWAPO since, though the party has dropped much of its Marxist ideology.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Hage GEINGOB

### Head of Government

President Hage GEINGOB

### Government Type

presidential republic

### Capital

Windhoek

### Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of the National Council (42 seats) and the National Assembly (104 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 824,292 sq km  
Land: 823,290 sq km  
Water: 1,002 sq km

### Climate

desert; hot, dry; rainfall sparse and erratic

### Natural Resources

diamonds, copper, uranium, gold, silver, lead, tin, lithium, cadmium, tungsten, zinc, salt, hydropower, fish, note, suspected deposits of oil, coal, and iron ore

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

upper middle-income Sub-Saharan economy; environmentally fragile but natural resource rich; struggling to recover from 2016 recession; pegged exchange rate to South African rand; ongoing post-apartheid land reforms; still high socioeconomic inequality

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$22.6 billion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$8,900 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - meatpacking, fish processing, dairy products, pasta, beverages mining

**Agricultural products** - roots/tubers, milk, maize, onions, beef, grapes, fruit, pulses, vegetables, millet

**Exports** \$3.56 billion (2020 est.)

copper, diamonds, uranium, thorium, gold, radioactive chemicals, fish (2019)

**partners:** China 27%, South Africa 18%, Botswana 8%, Belgium 7% (2019)

**Imports** \$4.54 billion (2020 est.)

copper, refined petroleum, delivery trucks, diamonds, cars (2019)

**partners:** South Africa 47%, Zambia 16% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

2.7 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

1.83% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Ovambo 50%, Kavangos 9%, Herero 7%, Damara 7%, mixed European and African ancestry 6.5%, European 6%, Nama 5%, Caprivian 4%, other 5.5%

### Language

Oshiwambo languages 49.7%, Nama/Damara 11%, Kavango languages 10.4%, Afrikaans 9.4%, Herero languages 9.2%, Zambezi languages 4.9%, English (official) 2.3%, other 3.2% (2016 est.)

### Religion

Christian 80% to 90% (at least 50% Lutheran), indigenous beliefs 10% to 20%

